



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 21, 2009

## **MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET**

### **MAYOR JOINS FIREFIGHTERS IN RANCHO BERNARDO TO MARK 2007 WILDFIRE ANNIVERSARY**

#### *Offers Praise for City's Brush Thinning Work*

Mayor Jerry Sanders today joined the city's firefighters and other officials to mark the second anniversary of the 2007 wildfires, which destroyed more than 300 Rancho Bernardo homes.

"The residents of Rancho Bernardo suffered unimaginable heartbreak two years ago," Sanders said. "Today we pause to remember this tragic event and honor the Fire-Rescue workers and other city personnel who worked so tireless and fearlessly."

The event comes at a time when the city has made huge strides in preparing for future wildfires. Virtually everyone in the Fire-Rescue Department has received advanced training in techniques such as fire triage, which enable firefighters to make quick, strategic decisions that minimize the loss of life and property.

The mayor also offered praise for the city's Development Services Department and the Park and Recreation Department. A special Fire Recovery Center operated by Development Services has spent the past two years helping Rancho Bernardo homeowners rebuild their houses and lives. The Fire Recovery Center closed down earlier this month after having fielded some 14,000 phone calls in two years from residents seeking help with the permitting process.

Thanks to the Park and Recreation Department, the city is thinning brush on public land at roughly seven times the pace it did five years ago.

###